

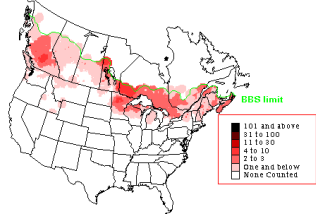
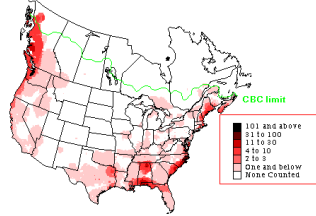


Common Loon *Gavia immer*

| Adult alternate | Adult basic | Summer range map | Winter range map |
|--|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |

| Migration Status | Breeding Habitat | Nest Location | Nest Type | Clutch Size | Incubation | Fledge | Number of Broods | Diet |
|------------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------|-------------|------------|--------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| N/A | Wetland-open water | N/A | N/A | 2 | 26-31 days | 75-80 | 1 | Fish, Aquatic Invertebrates |

Identification Tips:

- Length: 24 inches Wingspan: 58 inches
- Sexes similar
- Large diving bird with long body that rides low in the water
- Large bill is straight, tapers to a point, and is held horizontally
- Feet set far back on body, and trail behind body in flight
- Upperwings wholly dark in flight

Adult alternate:

- Black bill
- Black head
- Black neck with white markings
- White chest and belly
- Black back with white checkering and spotting

Adult basic:

- Pale gray bill
- Gray-brown cap, forehead, nape, hindneck and back
- White face, eye ring, chin, throat, foreneck and belly
- Jagged border between white foreneck and dark hindneck

Immature:

- Like basic-plumaged adult but often with paler bill and white scalloping on back

Similar species: Cormorants have hooked bills. Western, Clark's and Red-necked Grebes have thinner bills marked with yellow and show white in the wings in flight. Red-throated Loon has a thinner, upturned bill that it carries above horizontal. In basic and immature plumages its back is spangled with white spots and its head and neck are pale gray, with a straighter line of division with the white foreneck. Pacific Loon has a shorter, thinner bill, a sharp line dividing the pale foreneck and dark hindneck and no white around the eye. The rare Yellow-billed Loon is similar in all plumages, but has a bill that is beveled upwards at the tip and a blockier head, and is entirely yellow beyond the gonys. In basic and immature plumages, the head and hindneck are paler with a darker spot to the auriculars, and back has more pattern.

Credits:

Citation:

Gough, G.A., Sauer, J.R., Iliff, M. *Patuxent Bird Identification Infocenter* 1998. Version 97.1. Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD.
<http://www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/Infocenter/infocenter.html>

Length and wingspan from:

Robbins, C.S., Bruun, B., Zim, H.S., (1966). *Birds of North America*. New York: Western Publishing Company, Inc.

Clutch size, fledging, brood, and incubation information from:

Ehrlich, P., Dobkin, D., and Wheye, D. (1988). *The Birder's Handbook: A Field Guide to the Natural History of North American Birds*. New York. Simon and Schuster Inc.